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GSU welcomes a new dean of the College of Education and new director of institutional research and effectiveness

GSU is pleased to announce that Andrea E. Evans has been named dean of the College of Education and Marco Krcatovich II has been named director of institutional research and effectiveness.

Dr. Evans has spent the last two years as an associate professor of educational policy studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she served as the Ph. D. Program coordinator in the department of educational policy studies. Prior to UIC, Dr. Evans served as department chair of educational administration and higher education at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She also taught as an assistant professor of educational administration at Northern Illinois University. In 2007, she was appointed program coordinator of educational administration at NIU and oversaw master's and doctoral degree programs.



Andrea E. Evans

Dr. Evans' research has focused on educational leadership, school context, diversity and equity in schools, and more recently, chronic school absenteeism. She has published in several major journals including *Educational Administration Quarterly*, *Education and Urban Society*, and *Journal of School Leadership* and served as associate editor of the Handbook of Research on Educational Leadership for Equity and Diversity (2013). She served as the 2010 program chair for the Division A (Administration, Organization, and Leadership) of the American Educational Research Association and as a member of Division A Executive Council. In addition, she has sat on several statewide committees including the Illinois School Leader Redesign Team and Truancy in Chicago Public School Taskforce. Dr. Evans is the former president of the UIC Black Alumni Advisory Council and former vice-president of the UIC College of Education Alumni Board.

In addition to her work in higher education, Dr. Evans has been an educational consultant in the Chicago metropolitan area and across the state of Illinois and provides professional development to teachers and school leaders, and mentored middle school, high school, and college students. Also, she has mentored graduate students and early career faculty members from around the country. Finally, Dr. Evans has collaborated with Illinois school districts to provide guidance and support for their school improvement efforts.

Dr. Evans holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and Ph.D. in educational policy studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She received a master's degree in curriculum and program

development from DePaul University. She spent 11 years as a high school science teacher and administrator in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.



Marco Krcatovich II

For the last seven years, Marco Krcatovich II has been with the office of institutional research at Boston University, most recently as senior data analyst where he served as both a researcher and a data programmer. During his tenure at Boston University, he was involved in two university accreditations, aided the transition of graduate and undergraduate admissions and enrollment reporting into a central data warehouse, presented at regional conferences, and was tasked with projects across the university as Boston University solidified its spot among the top private research universities in the country. As an academic, he has a research interest in financial aid policy and student outcomes and has also collaborated with other scholars as a knowledgeable resource in data collection and analysis.

In addition to his professional career, he is a volunteer and life member of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, where he currently serves as the national chair of the fraternity's alumni association. He travels the country presenting to undergraduate members on risk management, fundraising and goal-setting, and creating supportive and inclusive environments for all members of the co-ed, interdisciplinary organization.

Mr. Krcatovich is a graduate of the University of Michigan College of Engineering with a degree in atmospheric science and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education with a graduate degree in higher education management.

Dr. Evans and Mr. Krcatovich will start their new positions Aug. 1.

Orientation season gets into full swing

GSU kicked off orientation season last week and the reception from incoming freshmen and their parents was overwhelmingly positive.

GSU had a day-and-a-half of programming to welcome the first freshman class and their guests to campus. It was the first of four orientation sessions scheduled for the summer.

Activities began Wednesday, June 25, when freshman students and their guests were invited to participate in our optional early arrival program. Early arrival activities consisted of "Dinner with the Deans," an evening tour of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and fun, games and activities. This was a great opportunity for new students to get to know each other and make connections before coming to campus the next day for orientation.

The required portion of the program followed on Thursday, June 26, with check in at 8 a.m. for the full day of orientation activities. The welcome and introductions began at 9 a.m. in Sherman Hall and breakout sessions followed immediately after. The day was engaging, high energy and informative for everyone.



(L to R) Brittany Czech (graduate student intern), Latonya Holmes (Coordinator of Cohort Advising and New Student Programs) and Maria D'Apolito (graduate student intern)

"Orientation is about getting students academically prepared for their first year of college. But it's also about starting their legacy at GSU," said Latonya Holmes, coordinator of cohort advising and new student programs. "We want to give them a sense of this being their home away from home and being where they belong. It's also about creating a sense of excitement so they can't wait for the fall semester to begin."

Exploring the future and a new world are this year's themes. Current GSU students served as orientation leaders, called navigators. And there was a separate program just for family members that will illustrate how parents can help their kids achieve goals and be a success. Orientation also provided an academic overview and detail what measures the university employs to ensure the campus is safe.

The rest of GSU's orientation sessions will be July 8, Aug. 6 and Aug. 22 and it is mandatory for all students to attend one. There will be an early arrival session the evening before the first two.

The GSU community is invited and encouraged to share its experiences through social media. This is a great way for everyone to share photos, memories, and stories. Use the hashtags #new2gsu and #govst2014 to connect with everyone to the GSU social media scene.

Excited about welcoming new students? [Tweet about it](#). Talk about it on your Facebook. Did you take a photo with students or colleagues? Put it up on Instagram. Just use those hashtags for your posts, and maybe you'll see your orientation experience streaming live on the monitors around campus.

- [Download the Freshmen Orientation Program Booklet](#) (pdf file)
- [Download the Freshmen Orientation Schedule of Events](#) (pdf file)
- [For updates, please visit our Freshmen Orientation website.](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact New Student Programs at 708.235.6819 or via email at orientation@govst.edu.

Exciting new video for Prairie Place

Check out our new video about [Prairie Place](#) created by the department of digital learning and media design.

Prairie Place will be an active, supportive and exciting place for students to live and learn. Students will have the opportunity to participate in learning activities and experiences that will connect them with other students who share a similar academic program or interest area. Our three faculty residents will lead initiatives in the areas of civic engagement, sustainability and global citizenship.

Please talk with students of all class levels about this great living and learning opportunity. If students have questions about on campus living, please encourage them to contact the University Housing office at 708.235.7110, or housing@govst.edu. Students can always stop by C1330 to speak with us in person.

Campus road and sidewalk project given the green light

GSU received great news last week. The State of Illinois Capital Development Board granted an authorization to proceed with the campus roadways and sidewalk improvement project at GSU.

The project will remove and replace approximately 4,000 feet of the University Drive curbed median, provide a re-configured theater loading dock to accommodate two way and truck traffic, and provide an increase in accessible parking near the A North entry doors.

The alumni path to the Metra station will also be removed and replaced with a wider path including new pavement near the grants office parking lot. New road pavement will be installed from University Parkway all the way to the Family Development Center. The project will be disruptive during construction, but we are excited about the improvements to our campus.



- Alumni path will be closed until finish of construction (Metra riders who use the path to come to the campus please use the [GSU Shuttle](#) or the [PACE bus](#).)
- The Stuenkel Entrance roadway will have limited access.
- There will be one lane for each direction--entering into campus and exiting the campus unto Stuenkel Road. Traffic will be affected by the lane limitations. Please use the Crawford entrance (east entrance) if possible.
- There will be some rerouting of traffic direction near the Family Development Center entrance. We will provide traffic directions as soon as they're announced.

Check www.govst.edu for additional details as they become available.

GSU's Center for Performing Arts new season brings more than just a show

Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts kicks off another exciting season that offers a live entertainment experience unlike any other in the Chicagoland area.

The 2014-15 season features provocative theater; musical favorites like the Beatles, big band, and the blues; contemporary dance and family entertainment that are sure to leave a lasting impression.



The full slate is divided into series packages. The Mainstage series features "Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey starring Jasmine Guy ('A Different World') and the Avery Sharpe Jazz Trio." Opera Up Close puts audiences on stage in an intimate cabaret-style seating that will give them a new appreciation for the art. The Family series features the classic holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker," and Spencers Theatre of Illusion, which combines the elements of live theater with elaborate stage illusions. The Made in Chicago series brings the vibrant and colorful influence Chicago has had on music, dance and drama to the Southland, thanks to the generosity of The Chicago Community Trust, First Midwest Bank and The National Endowment for the Arts. And the Theatre series features performances from the Southland Area

Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) and GSU's very own Theatre and Performance Studies program.

Returning for the third year in a row is "Chicago Live!," in which host Rick Kogan brings the Chicago Tribune newspaper to life with the help of special editorial and musical guests and the renowned Second City comedy troupe.

The Center for Performing Arts goes out of its way to offer engaging activities beyond the performances. As part of the Opera Up Close series, "Bon Appetit!," the audience will enjoy food sampling and Julia Child's French chocolate cake as the musical stories unfold. For "Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey starring Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Jazz Trio," audience members may purchase a VIP ticket that includes a pre-show dinner reception and a post-show meet and greet with the star of the show, Jasmine Guy. For "Classic Albums Live presents Abbey Road-The Beatles," fans may buy a pre-show English pub experience food ticket. And for Congo Square Theatre's "Twisted Melodies," patrons should come early to enjoy a listening party featuring music of the late great Donny Hathaway and some of the best soul food in Chicago.

For a full lineup, detailed show descriptions, video previews, and ticket information, visit www.centertickets.net. Save up to 20 percent by purchasing a series package or building your own flex-package. Programming is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Art Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.

The box office is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and two hours prior to performances. For more information, contact the box office at www.centertickets.net or call 708.235.2222.

Meditation and Interfaith Prayer Room available to GSU community

Consistent with its focus on diversity and inclusion, GSU is committed to supporting people of all faiths fairly and to provide the GSU Community with access to facilities for personal observation of their faith traditions or quiet contemplation.

Accordingly, a Meditation and Interfaith Prayer Room is available year round in Building A, room 2150. The room is an accessible space, which can be used by people of all faith traditions and beliefs, and for those whom religion has no particular significance in their lives. The room may be used as a quiet space for people to sit and contemplate, to pray, to take a few moments to de-stress from a busy day, or to recover from a traumatic life event, such as bereavement. The Meditation and Interfaith Prayer Room is available on a drop-in basis, or can be reserved by contacting Student Life at 708.235.7362 or randr@govst.edu.



GSU associate provost, graduate student honored at educational leadership conference



(L) Dr. Colleen Sexton and (R) Dr. Jenny Tripses,
Executive Director of the Illinois Women in
Educational Leadership

GSU associate provost/associate vice president for academic affairs Colleen Sexton and GSU graduate student Tiffany Murkey were honored by Illinois Women in Educational Leadership at its Dare to be Great Conference in April.

Dr. Sexton was presented with a hand blown glass apple to commemorate the event. The theme of this year's conference was "The Power of Connections." The conference honors women leaders whose work and accomplishments promote and align with the goals of Illinois Women in Educational Leadership. Those honored each year are women who exhibit the following qualities:

- Women who have dared through their voices to positively influence Illinois schools.
- Women who have led Illinois schools to become inclusive learning communities that value, respect, and promote diversity.
- Women who have mentored, promoted, supported, and nurtured other women leaders in all stages of their careers.
- Women who have conducted and/or disseminated research about women in the contexts of schools, teaching, learning, and leadership.

Nominated by Dr. Kathleen Hickey, a member of the IWEL Executive Board, Hickey said "Throughout Colleen's career, she has had a strong voice for women leaders and has successfully mentored and promoted women and minorities in education from preschool through post graduate work. As a result of her influence and leadership, more voices from women are influencing education at all levels of education. Dr. Sexton is driven by a moral imperative to see social justice become a reality as we work with the poor and children who are most needy. She mentors, supports, nurtures and models good leadership. Colleen reaches out to those who have potential, but have been denied opportunity and provides a foundation on which they can grow into leadership."

Tiffany Murkey was awarded the Dianne E. Ashby Leadership Conference Sponsorship at the conference. Each year, IWEL offers two \$500 sponsorships so that members can attend a leadership conference of their choice.

Ms. Murkey is currently pursuing an Ed. D in interdisciplinary leadership at GSU, where she is concentrating in higher education. Her career goal is to serve as a dean of students in a university.

Payroll time records (timesheets) now in GSU portal

Payroll time records have been updated and are ready for use on payroll's portal page. The updated time records are now in a fillable PDF format and can be downloaded and printed out. The time records are coded by classification as follows:

E – Exempt

G – Graduate Assistant

N – Non-exempt

S – Student

U – Faculty

X – Extra help

The same procedure still applies to completing and submitting your time records given your classification. Paper copies of old timesheets will no longer be available in the Payroll department. New time records will go into effect July 1, 2014. Old timesheets will no longer be accepted by Payroll after September 30, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding the time records process, please contact Payroll at payroll@govst.edu or 708.235.7628.

If you have any questions regarding your employment classification, please contact Human Resources at HumanResources@govst.edu or 708.534.4100.

Jennifer Boender wins 2014 Exemplary Course Award

The Center for Online Teaching and Learning awarded its first Exemplary Course Award for an outstanding hybrid or fully online course at GSU's recent Summer Faculty Institute. This year's award winner is Jennifer Boender, who teaches PSYC 3606: "Sex: What Everyone Needs to Know." The winner receives a \$500 award, and an award trophy.

The Exemplary Course Award is given to the faculty member whose hybrid or fully online course best matches best practices standards as measured by the GSU Exemplary Course Award Rubric. To win this prestigious award, the faculty member must demonstrate excellence in course design, interaction and collaboration, assessment, and learner support.



Jennifer Boender

Instructors are asked to evaluate their course according to the criteria in the Exemplary Course Rubric, and submit their analysis and narrative to the Center for Online Teaching and Learning.

"I must say, the application process was very enlightening as I evaluated my class based on the rubric," Professor Boender said. "I now have points of growth I have identified for this and future semesters."

To share successful strategies with the GSU community, the Exemplary Course Award winner will prepare a video presentation of the course to be presented at Faculty Summer Institute, 2015.

To apply for the 2015 GSU Exemplary Course Award, instructors may contact Barbara Mandel of The Center for Online Teaching and Learning. All faculty who apply for the upcoming 2015 award will receive feedback on ways to improve their hybrid or online course, in line with rubric standards.

We congratulate Jennifer Boender for winning the first GSU Exemplary Course Award.

GSU gives students a chance to step up their STEM skills



The GSU secondary education math and science programs will offer a summer science, technology, engineering and math camp to family and friends of GSU employees. The camp will be held from July 21 through July 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is only \$30 per student and will include lunch, all materials and a t-shirt.

Students who are going into eighth grade through 2014 high-school graduates are invited to take part in the exciting and fun adventure into STEM. Some activities will include launching bottle rockets, catapulting ping-pong balls, building bridges, and creating slime. For more information, contact Melinda Elliott at melliott@govst.edu.

Students raise funds for autism prevention and awareness

Students studying communication disorders surpassed last year's total as they raised money for Autism Speaks, the world's leading research and advocacy organization for autism prevention and awareness.

Students, who are members of GSU's Chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association, raised about \$4,000, a 20 percent increase from the year before, according to Kristy Hendershott, president of the GSU chapter of NSSLHA.

The students hosted the fundraiser for children (some of whom had autism) and their families at the Silver Ice Skate rink in Woodbridge, with all proceeds going to Autism Speaks.

Thousands of American children have autism spectrum disorder. Children with ASD have difficulty with social communication and demonstrate repetitive behaviors. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in 68 children has been identified with ASD; boys are more susceptible than girls. Contemporary research suggests that no one cause can be identified. Scientists have identified more than 100 genes and mutations that can increase the risk of autism in combination with environmental factors.

"Beliefs purported by some celebrities that vaccinations are the cause of autism are unfounded and have no scientific evidence. Early detection and intervention focusing on improving functional communication skills is extremely important," said Dr. Ravi Nigam, associate professor of communication disorders at GSU.

For more information on autism, visit Autism Speaks (www.autismspeaks.org) or American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) website at <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/autism/>.



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